

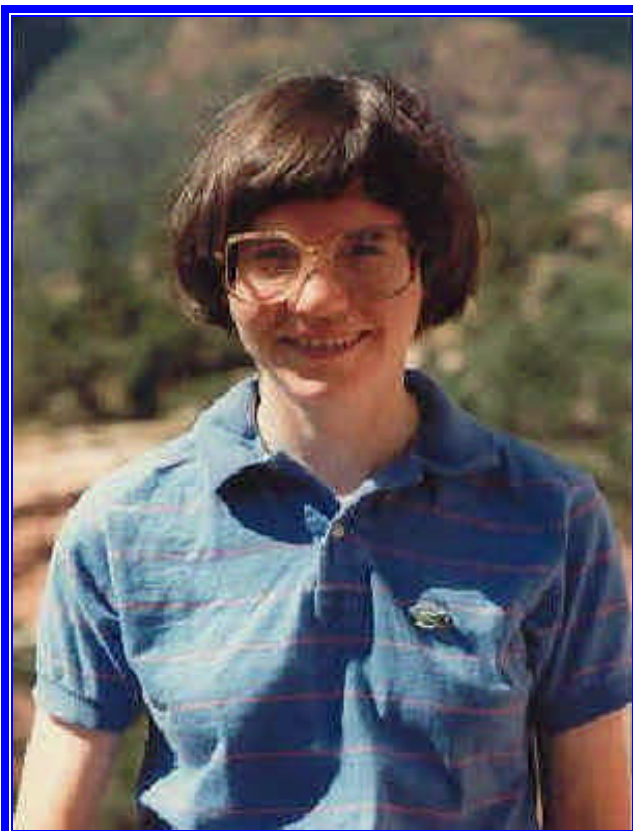


**Vol. 53**

**March 2003**

**No. 3**

## **In Memory of Liz Deutsch NØTUK**



*Liz Deutsch NØTUK, SK*

For those of you that never met her, Liz was a wonderful person. She was married to Ron Deutsch NKØP, and was also a ham, and has been a member and past secretary (and board member of the PPRAA). Liz Deutsch died February 13, 2003 after a long battle with cancer. She was born Elizabeth Redden on August 4, 1955 in Newark NJ to John and Bernice Redden. Liz graduated from Seaton Hall University with a BS degree in Nursing. Liz joined the USAF and served as an Air Force nurse from 1979 to 1891. Ron and Liz were married on August 23, 1980 in Cheyenne WI. Liz worked as an RN in Colorado Springs for 12 years, and worked most recently for the Pikes Peak Library District. She was involved in numerous volunteer activities including the UCCS disability service, where she read textbooks onto tapes for students with disabilities. She volunteered at several long-term care facilities visiting and reading to residents. She most recently completed the volunteer training program for Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care.

**MEETING LOCATION: EL PASO COUNTY OEM, 305 S UNION BLVD**  
**March Program: Digital Communication Modes**

**Meetings**

Our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, temporarily at the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management, 305 S Union Blvd. Our Annual meeting is in October. Check the web site for any changes.

**Regular License Exam Sessions**

Our ARRL VEC test sessions are on the 2nd Saturday of even numbered months at 0900 at the DeVry Institute annex, 3245 International Cr, just east of Memorial Park, but west of Printers Parkway. Contact Erik KGØXE for details.

Examinees need to bring (1) \$12, preferably a check or money order payable to ARRL/VE; (2) picture ID; (3) the signed original and a copy of your current amateur radio license and CSCEs you have (we keep the copies); and (4) a pen, pencil, and calculator if needed. Memory calculators will be checked.

**PPRAA Web Page** See it at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/>.

Thanks to Lee Inman KØQED for maintaining these pages.

**Get on the PPRAA E-mail**

**Reflector** Stay on top of new or short-fused developments. Subscribe at

<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ppraanet>.

Thanks to John Wishart KCØJFH for maintaining this list.

**PPRAA Simplex Net**

All amateurs are invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 1900 on 146.58 MHz simplex for our club net. Get the latest club and regional happenings!

**Officers and Directors**

President	Ben Cruise	NØLNW		n0lnw@arrl.net
Vice President	Tom McDaniel	NØNTX	570-1465	n0ntx@amsat.org
Secretary	Joanie VerDuft	KCØGMI		verduftj@earthlink.net
*Treasurer	Bob Wogaman	KBØB	531-0511	kb0b@worldnet.att.net
*Board Member	Rick Brown	KØSU	531-9423	k0su@arrl.net
*Board Member	Kate Muniz	KCØEGJ	683-7702	kc0egj@aol.com
*Board Member	Aaron Pelouze	KD6FLM		
Board Member	Jerry VerDuft	ADØA		verduftj@earthlink.net
Ø-Beat Editor	Rob Roller	N7LV	282-0204	n7lv@ppfma.org

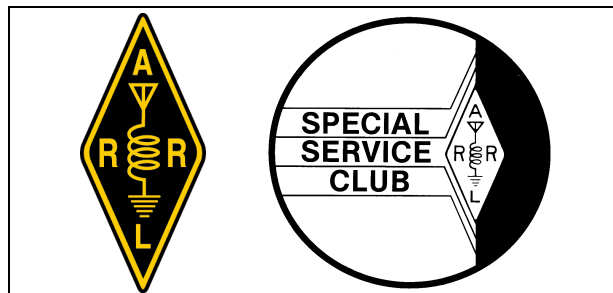
\* Indicates this Director is in the 2nd year of a two-year term

**Committee Chairs & Other Contacts**

Activity	VACANT			
Auditing	Kate Muniz	KCØEGJ	683-7702	kc0egj@aol.com
Asset	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	
E-Mail Reflector	John Wishart	KCØJFH	481-2439	john.wishart@hp.com
Historian	Ron Deutsch	NKØP		nk0p@arrl.net
Interference	Bill Petty	NØNJX	532-1439	
Membership	Les Borst	KCØNC	634-3995	
Programs	Rick Brown	KØSU	531-9423	k0su@arrl.net
Publicity	VACANT			
Public Service	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	
Hamfest	Kate Muniz	KCØEGJ	683-7702	kc0egj@aol.com
Technical Education	Linda Hedges	KBØRKW	683-7828	kb0rkw@juno.com
VE Testing	Erik Mugele	KGØXE		ve@teuton.org
Video Librarian	Dennis Major	NØABC		n0abc@qsl.net
Webmaster	Lee Inman	KØQED	495-9577	k0qed@arrl.net
AMSAT Coordinator	Tom McDaniel	NØNTX	570-1465	n0ntx@amsat.org
ARRL Awards Mgr	Rick Brown	KØSU	531-9423	k0su@arrl.net
ARES EC	Wes Wilson	KØHBZ		
ARES Liaison	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	
ARRL Section Mgr	Jeff Ryan	KØRM	260-6826	k0rm@arrl.net
CCARC Liaison	Moe Pierce	WBØRTF		
HamCon Chairman	Jerry VerDuft	ADØA		verduftj@earthlink.net
RACES Officer	Les Borst	KCØNC	575-8400	kc0nc@worldnet.att.net

**Upcoming Club Programs**

Mar .....	Digital Modes
Apr .....	QRP



**Articles for the Ø-Beat** Deadline for articles or ads for the Apr issue is Mar 24. Submit articles by e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person to the editor. Editor reserves right to edit for readability, grammar, spelling, punctuation and length.

**Nonprofit Organization** The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions/donations may be tax-deductible.

**Ø-Beat Available Electronically** in PDF form via e-mail and on the web. Contact the editor for details.

The Ø-Beat is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc, P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521. Permission is granted to reprint articles provided credit is given to both the author and the Ø-Beat. For membership and subscriptions see the back inside cover of this publication. Monthly advertising rates: Full page \$48; Half page \$24; Quarter page \$12; Business card \$6. Rates are billed quarterly. Send advertisements and payments to Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc, P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521.

## Club and Local News

### President's Corner

By NØLNW Ben Cruise, President

It appears to me, from my limited view, that ham radio is alive and well. Just listen to the local repeaters and hear the new calls getting on the air. A club meeting rarely goes by that we do not welcome someone who has just received a new call. The Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air last summer was a great success and a couple of new tickets were hatched there.

Many of us, who are "old timers" decried the demise of our hobby. First the "Donald Duck" tones of SSB, then incentives to upgrade program, the changed format of QST, all were going to be the death of ham radio. Who cannot remember the threat posed by the advent of personal computers and the internet, and e-mail. We were going to the netherworld in a handbasket. More recently the removing of meaningful CW skills as a license requirement was added to our list of woes.

And yet the wonder and magic of hearing "someone talking to me" from the darkness of the night sky is still there for each of us. We see on the faces of the new hams that this magic is still being generated in the next generation of OM and YLs.

Yes, even the joy of CW and homebrew is alive and well. Tune down to the QRP CW calling frequencies and listen. You may think you have time-warped back to the 50s or 60s. These are not just old timers. More often than not the code speed is the five to ten words per minute of the new CW operator. Remember how many of us used to spend a few minutes a day on the Novice band to show our support of the new hams. Hmmm. 73  
*de Ben NØLNW*

### Club Briefs

- We're still looking into reserving the Sportsman's Club site at the USAFA for this year's Field Day. Latest word is they've been contacted, but haven't received the letter yet. Al VO1NO is our FD coordinator this year.
- Hamfest planning meeting is on Sat, Apr 5 at the COS police station, 7850 Goddard St, and will be on the first Saturday of each month from now on.

*[Editor's Note: The list of "Goodbye to the Following Members" in the next column is a list of the people for which payment had not been received by press time. Please disregard if your membership renewal has crossed in the mail. Remember that all memberships expire in December, and that we allow a month's grace period.]*

## Membership Report

By KCØNC Les Borst, Membership Chair

### Please Welcome These New Members

JIM ROMINES ..... AB5SI  
BOB RYALS..... KIØGF  
KEVIN SHIELDS ..... KBØWFM

### Goodbye to the Following Members

JAMES ALBERTSON III ..... KCØHPV  
SETH BARDASH..... KIØPE  
KENNETH R BARTON ..... W5MJC  
JOHN BEARDSLEY ..... KCØJUB  
HAL BERGESON ..... WØMXY  
CARLOS CARO ..... KBØREI  
COREY M DAVIS ..... KØAWN  
JASON DeVRIES ..... KCØHHZ  
RYAN DURBIN ..... KCØGLQ  
LARRY FARMER..... WA6GZC  
ELIZABETH FERRARA ..... KCØDMQ  
NICK FOWLER ..... KCØMIT  
COLLEEN GALBRAITH..... NØQWO  
ROBERT J GALLAGHER..... KA6IRT  
ROBBIE GALLAGHER ..... KCØJTR  
DELBERT G GIBSON ..... KØUIV  
ROSS HANSEN ..... KCØMSC  
REID HANSEN ..... KCØMSH  
RALPH HARMON ..... KCØFNQ  
JOHN HASLING..... KCØHQB  
TEX HOUSTON ..... KBØODP  
LYDIA KILE ..... NØLUG  
RICK KILE ..... WB7THT  
KYENG S KIM ..... KCØIST  
LINDA KRAUSE ..... KØDRK  
ROBERT KUEGEMANN ..... KCØIVW  
DEBORAH LEACH..... KKØDEB  
NATE LEACH ..... KCØHPW  
PHILLIP LEACH..... KKØPL  
RACHAEL LINK ..... KCØMAA  
ROBERT LINK ..... WØLR  
HARLAN E LONG..... WØHEL  
BOB MANERY ..... NØVBQ  
MIRIAM MYERS..... KBØREJ  
BILL MYERS ..... W9BKS  
DOUGLAS J MYERS ..... KL1DJ  
CHRISTOPHER MYERS ..... KL1DY  
VIRGENE NOLAN  
CHARLES NOLAN  
DOUG PARIS ..... N4TGO  
PHIL PEARSALL ..... KC5LXC  
KENNETH PHILLIPS ..... NØNKP  
TIMOTHY RADER ..... KCØGBH  
STEVE RAPP ..... WBØQGI  
MARK RICHARDSON..... NØEPF  
ROBERT ROSIE ..... WA6GSV  
EDWARD RUTLEDGE ..... KCØHCS  
JEFF RYAN ..... KØRM  
GLORIA RYAN ..... NØZFX  
WOLFGANG SCHAER..... KCØAEC  
DAN SCOTT ..... KBØPPM  
DAVE SLOAN..... NØEOP  
ALFRED SONTAG ..... KAØWIE  
MILLIE TROTH ..... NØVBR  
RAYMOND VIGEANT ..... KCØHQD  
SID WHITE ..... K4ARM  
ZANE WILKERSON ..... KCØJTG

Total Number of Members

**148**



## 2003 - A Year of Firsts

By KFØWF Frank McNally, Instructor

The Technician class of 2003 set a precedent for others to follow. This year's class began on Jan 7. Each student had a reason for taking the class, ranging from: friends or relatives with ham licenses promoting the hobby, or wanting to know and understand a little more about radio, to ranchers wishing to have reliable communications while on horseback, and people wishing to support community events and service organizations. Among the ranks of new persons interested in amateur radio were returning students, now seasoned licensed operators, wishing to learn Morse code and upgrade their licenses to take full advantage of HF privileges. The demographics of the class consisted of both young and old from 9 to nearly 70.



**Daly receives her CSCE from Frank McNally on Feb 7. Listen for Daly on the air; she's**

The class began with 22 interested in the technician portion and 13 interested in code. As the class progressed attrition took its toll, with 18 remaining in the technician portion for the full five weeks and six dedicated students practicing for the code. This attrition is typical of most classes offered in the past. However, this class had one special student who encouraged and charmed all the others. Daly Blanton, 9, was interested in both obtaining her Technician license and code endorsement. Hidden behind glasses and sitting at her father's side, she wanted to know everything about this fascinating hobby called amateur radio. She and her father, Phillip, were quick to volunteer for code class when offered. Each class night Daly and Phillip were one of the first to arrive and take their position in the front row waiting for code class to begin. Dad provided the encouragement that Daly needed and worked with her each day to hone their skills in copying Morse code. The code class uses a unique approach to learning code. Based on the Koch method of learning code at 20 words per minute, the Farnsworth method of using a character timing of 18 WPM element spacing and a modified David Finely/N1IRZ method of practicing two characters over and over again until the student obtains a copy proficiency of 90 percent or better for

the two characters being sent. Once the charters are learned, then the student moves on to the next two characters and practices this pair until learned.

Phillip wrote a Windows based program for Daly to use and offered the program to the class for their use as well. Each student applied the lessons learned in the class, but learning the 43 characters needed to pass the test in a four week period is a challenging feat for even the most ardent code slinger. By the time the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association VE team was summoned to give the test session on Feb 6, each class participant evaluated his or her progress in both the written and code portions of the test and elected to take the respective elements to obtain their licenses. The class heroine, Daly, although proficient in knowing each and every Morse code character by heart, chose not to take the code Element 1 examination. Dad Phillip, on the other hand, passed Exam elements 1, 2 and 3 to earn his General class license. Daly went on to pass element 2 and earn her technician license to the cheer of the class participants. She was an inspiration to all and the driving force behind her Dad. Congratulations to both Daly and Dad for reassuring all others that learning Morse code and earning an amateur license can be obtained if you apply yourself to meet your goals.

As inspiring as Daly and Phillip were to the class, the class itself obtained a distinctive milestone in their own right. In the 11 years of my association with the class, this is the first class that obtained a 100 percent pass rate for all class students who took the Technician written test. To add to this success story, the VE team liaison, Dennis Major NØABC submitted the test results from the class and the monthly VE session on a Saturday and the class call signs were issued by the FCC on the following Tuesday afternoon. A far cry from when call signs took weeks or months to be issued.

This class also demonstrated an interest in amateur radio not often found in the past classes. Eleven of the 18 students who took the test attended the introduction to amateur radio demonstration on the Tuesday, Feb 11, to learn their new call signs and hear the RACES net from the OEM communications center. The group listened as the instructor checked into the net and when the class was announced, the students received a warm welcome from the RACES net controller. The students also received an introduction to HF radio with Daly taking the microphone to make her first contact to a Boy Scout in California working on his radio merit badge. Since that evening, over half the students have been heard on 2-meters and are actively pursuing their dream of joining the ranks of amateur radio operators.

Of the five students who took the Morse code test, one passed Element 1. However, each student learns at a different rate and must meet the challenges of work and family. Based on past history, these dedicated individuals will be back to upgrade their licenses and continue to enjoy the rewards of amateur radio. May those dedicated brass pounders realize their dream and continue the precedent set by the written group to reach the 100% pass rate set by themselves and their classmates. The instructional team of Barb NØBAM, Carol KCØHPS, Dave KCØHPT and Frank KFØWF wish all the

new hams a warm 73 and extend a welcome to the wonderful world of amateur radio.

## VE Test Results

### By NØABC Dennis Major, VE Team Coordinator

The PPRAA VE team held two test sessions in February: the first on the 6th - the culmination of Frank McNally's (KFØWF) winter class, and the standard second Saturday of even months session on the 8th. They were both very productive test sessions; of 28 total candidates, there were 25 new Technicians, one new General, and two upgrades to General.

Frank achieved a 100% licensing rate from those in his class who tested, including young Daly Blanton KCØPAW, nine-year-old daughter of Phillip Blanton KCØPAN (who went from zero to General on the 6th).

Here is a list of those from the class attaining Technician licenses (or as noted):

Sharon Agun	KCØPBR
Richard Armstrong	KCØPBH
Daly Blanton	KCØPAW
Phillip Blanton	KCØPAN (General)
Patricia Bowers	KCØPAY
Elizabeth Brown	KCØPAU
Majella Dumais	KCØPAO
Barbara Heitzman	KCØPAT
Henry Hess	KCØPBI
Kevin Magrino	KCØPBB
Kenneth Niles	KCØPBQ
David Nothstein	KCØPBG
Sean Richardson	KCØPBE
Valerie Settle	KCØPAP
Daniel Settle	KCØPAQ
Kevin Sexauer	KCØPAR
Jason Sexauer	KCØPAS
Peter VanVuren	KCØPAV

Others, not part of the class, that tested that week:

William Blake	KCØPBO
Lance Cross	KCØBPB (HF)
Joshua Davis	KCØPBA
Gary Frerking	KCØPBC
Troy Gries	KCØPBF
Eric Huffman	KCØPBD
James Myers	KCØPAZ
Roy Osborne	KCØPBS

Additionally, there were two upgrades to General:

Anthony Dal Lago	KC4VMB
Earl Blakely	KAØUWM

CONGRATULATIONS to all!!!

## General Meeting Minutes, Feb 12, 2003

### By KCØGMI Joanie VerDuft, Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by President Ben Cruise NØLNW followed by introductions around the room. Thirty-one members and 1 visitor signed the attendance book.

January meeting minutes were approved and KBØB gave the treasurer's report indicating total cash and bank account balance of \$5769.96; inflows of \$749; out flows of \$740.31. Committee reports: Kate KCØEGJ announced the next swapfest committee meeting will be on Sat March 1<sup>st</sup>. Ben noted the Field Day site will be at the Air Force Academy Sportsman Club area and that MARC members are welcome to join us. Les KCØNC noted that membership renewal deadline is up and those not renewing will be dropped from the membership database. Rick KØSU noted the upcoming programs through June: digital communications, QRP, and part 2 of Battle of The Beams. Wes KØHBZ noted that ARES members need to be prepared and ready for any emergency situation including terrorist threats. Les KCØNC also noted that RACES members need to be constantly prepared. Ben NØLNW urged all members to get emergency communications training by checking into the Tuesday night ARES net at 7 pm on the 146.97 repeater. Wes announced that Skywarn training is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup> – contact K4ARM. ARES basic training is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> – contact NØMIK. Moe WBØRTF announced there will be a CCARC meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Silverthorne and asked if someone would serve as an alternate representative in case she cannot attend. Jerry ADØA announced that Riley Hollingsworth is having to cancel out coming to our RM Division Convention due to family commitments and that Jim Haynie will therefore be the banquet speaker. Jerry also has invited a former Astronaut, Richard Truly, to attend but he has not yet accepted. Rob N7LV announced that he is still looking for someone to take over as Zero Beat editor. Old business: Bob KBØB noted that 4 board members (KCØEGJ, NØABC, N7LV and KBØB) attended the state “gaming license” training and are now certified “gamers” (to oversee the raffle). Mike WV7T passed out certificates to those that participated in the Freezoree. New business: The club will probably be meeting at the OEM until we can resecure the Leon Young Service Center or find another meeting place that is more stable. The meeting took a short break followed by presentations of old-time ham gear by those that brought them. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. *Respectfully submitted by Joanie VerDuft, KCØGMI, Secretary.*

## Board Meeting Minutes, Feb 17, 2003

### By KCØGMI Joanie VerDuft, Secretary



The PPRAA Board of Directors met at the home of Aaron Pelouze KD6FLM. The meeting was called to order by President Ben Cruise NØLNW at 7pm. Board members in attendance

were Tom McDaniel NØNTX, Bob Wogaman KBØB, Dennis Major NØABC (proxy for KCØEGJ who was ill), Rick Brown KØSU, Aaron Pelouze KD6FLM, Rob Roller N7LV, Jerry VerDuft ADØA, Joanie VerDuft KCØGMI, and Ben Cruise NØLNW. Others attending were Les Borst KCØNC, Jody Borst KAØROZ, Dan Scott KBØPPM, and Al Penney

VO1NO. Minutes from the January Board meeting were approved. Last month NØABC was asked to look into obtaining a General Class tape from ARRL. Dennis suggested we also obtain a Technician Class tape (once upgraded) since Frank's class is conducted only once per year. The Board concurred. Dennis will also serve as the club's Video/Audio Tape Coordinator. It was discussed that we need a list of the club's equipment assets on file with the Secretary. KØTER will be asked to provide said list once the inventory is completed. Les KCØNC gave us the status of membership updates and possible outreach to newly licensed hams in the area. Ben NØLNW receives information from ARRL on new area licensees and will follow-up on this. The Board resolved that all members would receive Zero Beat through February of the following year to allow a grace period for membership renewal. If not renewed by February, the person will be dropped from the database. Rick KØSU noted that we have the OEM reserved for the general meeting for the next 3 months. The Board requested we retain our reservations at Leon Young Service Center for May, July, Aug and Nov. Al VO1NO discussed Field Day planning. He still needs some band captains and a cook. Dan KBØPPM discussed the Scout Jamboree On The Air scheduled for the third week of October. The Board suggested he discuss his support needs for the Jamboree in Zero Beat and on the reflector. Rob N7LV discussed that he needs relief from the Zero Beat editor's position by October as he has family commitments at that time. Jerry ADØA noted that ICOM has agreed to participate in the convention as an Exhibitor/Vendor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. *Respectfully submitted by Jerry ADØA in the absence of Joanie.*

## Ham Etc News Briefs

- The ARRL has produced a second 6-minute video clip about ham radio, also entitled "Amateur Radio Today", and also narrated by Walter Cronkite KB2GSD. This video is billed as an improvement over the first video released last month. This one is actually available for downloading from the ARRL web site (the previous one was removed). It still features footage of Colorado hams in action during the wildfires this past summer. You can order it from the ARRL for \$9 or download it (70 MB).
- Jeff Ryan KØRM CO Section Manager, is looking for "...someone who has distinguished himself / herself as a ham radio operator in the past year? Do you know someone who has demonstrated the best that our hobby and service can be? Send me your nominations for the Colorado Section 2002 Amateur Operator of the Year. Mail (or email) a paragraph nominating an ARRL member in the Colorado Section, including call, any club affiliation (if being nominated by a club) and why this person should be recognized. Please get nominations to me by March 15th, 2003." E-mail to [k0rm@arrl.org](mailto:k0rm@arrl.org).
- Looks like Riley Hollingsworth will not be able to make it as banquet speaker during the upcoming ARRL Rocky Mountain Division convention, due to personal conflicts. Instead, Jim Haynie W5JDP, ARRL president, will fill in for him. The plan still calls for an excellent program throughout

the entire event. Please get your registration in now at <http://www.hamconcolorado.org>, or contact Jerry ADØA for details.

## Still Looking for New Ø-Beat Editor

By N7LV Rob Roller, Ø-Beat Editor

It's time for me to pass the baton on to another creative individual (not that I'm creative or anything) and let someone else have some fun with producing the Ø-Beat. It is fun, and educational too! It's amazing how much you'll learn about ham radio. It's really not a big job, but it does take several hours a month to piece it together. Getting it to the printer is now a piece of cake since X-Press accepts it via e-mail. This is also a board position. It was made a board position a number of years ago so the editor would stay up on the latest happenings in the club. I'll be giving this up in a few months, so please consider this soon!!

## Hamfest Horizon

- **Apr 5, 2003:** Longmont ARC Hamfest, Boulder Co. Fairgrounds, Longmont. Visit the web site at <http://www.qsl.net/larc/>
- **May 30 Jun 1, 2003:** Rocky Mountain Division Convention (HamCon), Estes Park. Visit the web site at <http://www.hamconcolorado.org> Contact Jerry VerDuft ADØA, 719-634-8066, [ad0a@arrl.net](mailto:ad0a@arrl.net).
- **Jun 14, 2003:** PPRAA Hamfest, Lewis-Palmer High School, Monument. VE testing, forums, raffle prizes! Contact Kate Muniz KCØEGJ for details.
- **Aug 17, 2003:** Denver Radio Club Hamfest, Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds, Golden.
- **Sep 28, 2003:** Boulder ARC Hamfest, Boulder Co. Fairgrounds, Longmont.

## Historical Dits and Bits

By NKØP Ron Deutsch, Historian

**20 years ago:** March 1973 the WAØVTU repeater went on the air on Cheyenne Mtn. As of March 1973, 109 volunteer-hours went into putting it on the air. The repeater chairman was KØUDG, Pete Demario. The PPRAA president was Wayne Brown W2TPV/Ø. PPRAA meeting were held at the Security Savings and Loan on East Platte and Union on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Rosie, WAØMNL missed her usual 'Rosie's Reporting' article this month. (Where were you Rosie??)

[NOTE: The Club history archives have pretty big hole between June 2001 and Dec 2002. Anyone with hardcopy Ø-Beats they would like to contribute or any other interesting documents or photo's please drop me a note or give me a call.]



## Public Service Communications

The PPRAA is an ARRL Special Services Club, but it is not an emergency services club itself. The PPRAA supports all amateur radio involvement in public service and emergency communications in any way it can, including reporting activities happening in the region. These columns are based on available knowledge of the editor, and the opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions of RACES, ARES, Skywarn or any other organization, or their leadership. Logos used with permission.

### RACES



<http://www.qsl.net/epcraces/>

VHF Net Tuesdays at 1930 on the 146.76 MHz

CMRG repeater

Les Borst KCØNC, RACES Officer

I hope we've made it through the coldest part of winter, but in the past March has been one of the snowiest months. So don't relax your care when you drive. As the weather warms we may see heavy rains which means the possibility of street and road flooding. One way to avoid trouble is to get acquainted with several alternate routes to/from your destination. Remember even at slow speeds you can lose control of your car when running on water covered roads. Notes from the net: New RACES structure includes Doug WØMHP-operations, Doc WØMCT-deputy RO, Tony KC4VMB-technical coordinator and looking for "experts" in various fields, Jeff NØJLH-info coordinator. At training Doug brainstormed training topics; look for them soon. Next month's training is fire weather behavior, followed by Skywarn training in April. Limited seating.

### ARES



<http://www.qsl.net/ppares/>

VHF Net Tuesdays at 1900 on the 146.97 MHz

PPFMA repeater

Wes Wilson KØHBZ, EC

NØMIK will present ARES basic MEAT program (Minimum Essential ARES Training); PPARES members are strongly encouraged to attend; however it will be open to all. This'll be at the El Paso County OEM on Apr 12 from 0800 to 1600. N7LV is looking for additional resource assistants, and will provide training soon. Contact N7LV if interested. Check the calendar on pg 11 for other upcoming public service events; KØTER has created a master schedule for public service events this year, and it's lookin' busy. Mike NØMIK has been selected by the city to represent PPARES at FEMA training later this Spring back East. It's quite an honor to have PPARES formally recognized like this as a player in the city's emergency plan. Cavalier Trail Ride is May 24 & 25. Contact KD6FLM at 597-2503 or kd6flm@aol.com.

### Freezoree 2003 Report

By WV7T Mike Anderson

Freezoree 2003 was a huge success due to the combined efforts of Mike KØTER, Wes KØHBZ, Lee KØQED, Dean KAØPII, Ted NØNKG, John NØQJS, Dan KBØPPM, Jim NØTUI, Al VO1NO and Mike WV7T. The facilities provided had a much better tent, newer tables and chairs. No mud and muck this year. In the tent, Mike, KØTER setup his PSK-31 station, Wes KØHBZ had HF SSB, Ted NØNKG VHF, and Lee KØQED APRS. Mike WV7T gave presentations on the Radio Merit Badge which was a great draw. Following Mike's presentation the scouts and their leaders were directed into the tent. Wes had set up a computer to play the 6-minute ARRL video of emergency operations, narrated by Walter Cronkite (also a ham), and which had footage from the Hayman Fire. It was estimated 500+ scouts and leaders visited the ham radio tent and one troop asked for a Radio Merit Badge class for their troop (which just happened to be the troop where Mike WV7T works). Mike KØTER and Wes KØHBZ both had their communications trailers on site. Several of the cadet hams came to the ham site and visited at length with the operators. PPRAA received a flag streamer for participating in Freezoree 2003.

### Skywarn Training Coming Up In March & April



There are two Skywarn training sessions scheduled. The first is on Mar 29, from 0800 to 1600, at the East Library, 5550 N Union. Contact Sid White K4ARM for details and to get registered. The second is sponsored by El Paso Co. RACES, and is on Apr 17 at 7 pm, at the El Paso Co. OEM, 305 S. Union. This second session is primarily for RACES members. Contact Les Borst KCØNC for details. Skywarn is the weather spotter program coordinated by the National Weather Service. Tom Magnuson of the Pueblo NWS office has graciously donated his time over the past several years to train us ham radio operators in the skills necessary to collect and feed back basic weather information to the NWS. Tom will be teaching both of these training sessions.

## Articles and Tech Talk

### Scout Jamboree On The Air: Planning Ahead

By KBØPPM Dan Scott

I would like to put together a list of amateur radio operator scouts and adult scouters in the Pikes Peak region associated to either Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. If you are, or know of any, amateur radio operator scouts and scouters, please have them contact me via email or phone: email: [kb0ppm@arrl.net](mailto:kb0ppm@arrl.net) phone: 635-0871



The 2003 Freezoree Scout patch

I also want to put together a short mpeg showing local amateur radio activities. One of the Boy Scout 'Radio Merit Badge' requirements states: "Describe some of the activities that amateur radio operators can do on the air, once they have earned an amateur radio license." So, I was thinking that pictures are worth a thousand words, and a quick set of movie clips would be a good way to introduce various activities. The ARRL mpeg "Amateur Radio Today" does a great job, but I want to cut-and-paste more clips together dealing with other local activities so we have a second mpeg to show. So, if you have a tape you would like to share of "Field-Day", "MIR contact", AMSAT, ARES, RACES, etc I would like get a copy of any tape section(s) you feel would appeal to 10 to 18 year-olds. Thanks for you help. 73



Mike KØTER (seated) demonstrates PSK-31 at Freezoree

### Homebrew Speech Processor for FT-817

By NØXDW, Jeff Gerst

I purchased an FT-817 QRP rig a while back for portable use, especially with the idea of using on a 14er expedition. I

discovered it had no provision for speech processing. After researching the web I came across the SSM2165 compressor IC made by Analog Devices. This chip has some interesting design characteristics. One design advantage that this IC provides is variable compression, and another is a noise gate threshold. Although the noise gate threshold is not adjustable, if a potentiometer is added to the input you can have some adjustment. A third design advantage is an adjustable low frequency cutoff point.

First about the noise gate. This is a set point where signals below the threshold will be expanded, i.e. noise will be reduced. This can be useful in a reduction of extraneous background noise that could detract from the communications. Secondly I found with experimentation that some punch and improved intelligibility can be accomplished by setting a higher low-frequency cut off, or as they put it high pass filter frequency. One thing I wanted to do was to interface with the readily available headsets. I initially used a multimedia

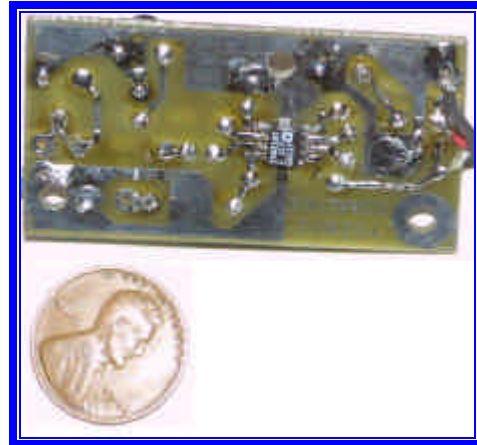


Fig 2

computer headset, but switched to a cellphone type that uses only one connector for mic and speaker audio. I am now using a Plantronics headset. Due to RF feedback I decided to try installing it inside the radio, and that has helped eliminate the feedback. This was only a problem on a handheld dipole type antenna. So I decided to build this circuit and try it out. Working with a company called FAR CIRCUITS I came up with a circuit board design that he helped me refine some that uses discrete components to go with the SMD IC. The IC was no longer available in a DIP package. Fig 1 is the schematic as it is used in my FT-817.

The inductors are there to help reduce RF feed back, R1 sets the compression level. I forgot to label the input



potentiometer. The 5V is supplied from the mic jack on the 817. I drilled a hole and added a jack that the headset can plug into directly. I realize most folks may not want to do that step. Fig 2 is a photo of the bottom of the current board. I intend to work with FAR circuits on a version with all SMD components next that would be a bit smaller. This was a tight fit inside the radio; actual size of board is about 1.1 x 2 inches.

## Field Day Planning!

By VO1NO, Al Penney, Field Day Chairman

We are attempting to use the Sportsman Club on the grounds of the Air Force Academy, although it's not yet been confirmed. In the meantime, if anyone can suggest another location, please let me know!

Several of the Band Captain positions have been filled.

They are:

- CW station: Mike K0TER
- Satellite: Tom N0NTX
- SSB station: Vacant
- VHF/UHF: Vacant
- GOTA: Vacant

(Note: GOTA stands for Get On The Air – for new or inactive Amateurs)

Unfortunately, some of the people who have traditionally been band captains in the past have had to bow out this year because of other commitments. This is a great opportunity for a new person to jump in! If

you want to be a band captain, then please let me know. The job is not that difficult, and I can certainly help you out.

I have been talking with the Mountain ARC. They are considering operating in the local Emergency Operations Center under the new category announced for this year's Field Day (Class F), and so will probably not be available for our operation.

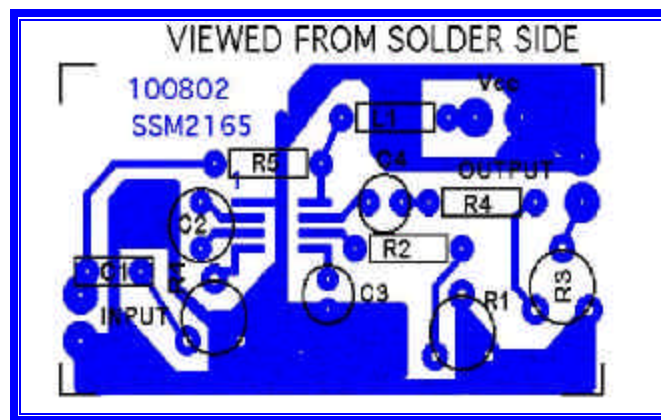


Fig 4

This is the point where I now ask for volunteers! There are a lot of jobs that must be done or equipment provided

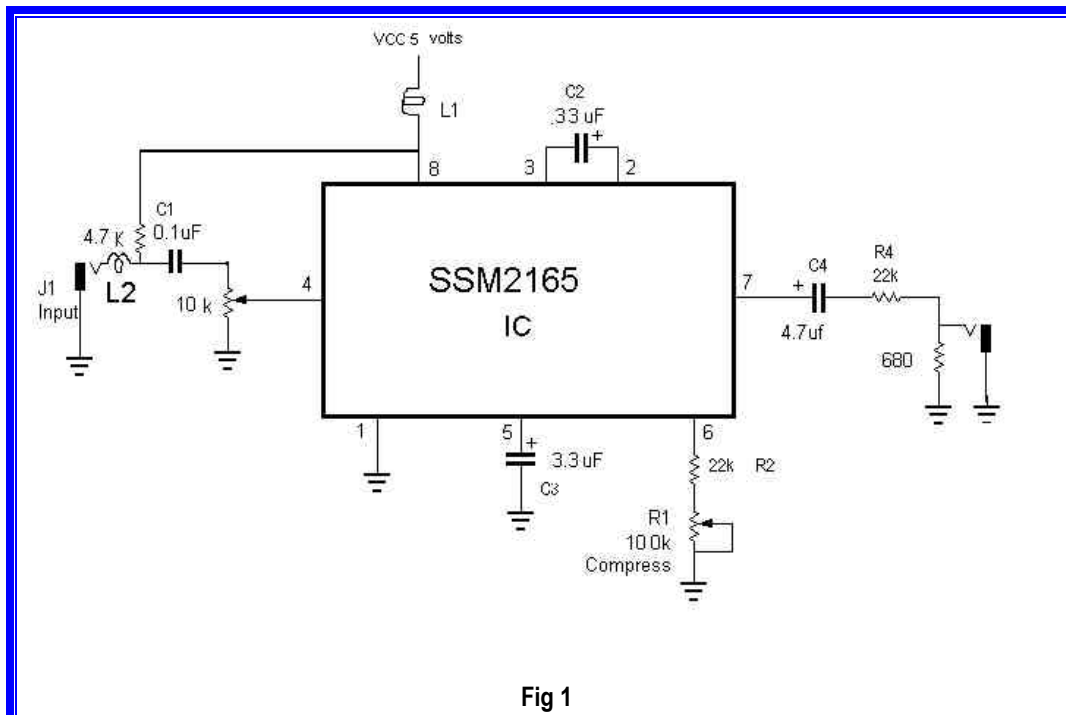


Fig 1

(The penny is for size reference.)

I found out about the general circuit and have modified it some based on information from the manufacturer data sheets and suggested circuits. Fig 3 shows the component side of the board. Initially I had intended to use 3 potentiometers in the design, but later decided only two were really necessary. One is used for a mic input level, the second is to adjust the level of compression. Fig 4 is the silk screen of board from solder side.



Fig 3

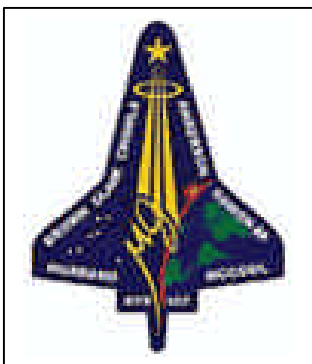
This is much larger than actual size. If there is anything that I can clarify please don't hesitate to get in touch. 73 de NØXDW.

to make Field day a success. Here is a partial list of assistance that will be required:

- Band Captains for SSB, GOTA, and VHF/UHF.
- Generators to power the stations.
- Propane BBQs and, most importantly, chefs to prepare fine meals! (A small fridge to keep pop cold would be appreciated as well!)
- A source of natural power. This could include wind or sun power to charge a battery (I'll assume that hydroelectric power is not available in this area!).
- People with pickup trucks or trailers who can help transport equipment to/from the FD site.
- People able to bring a demonstration mode to FD. This could include SSTV, APRS, ATV or even a portable moonbounce station (anyone into portable EME?!).
- Operating tents. I am trying to obtain tents from the military, but if someone has a source already please let me know.
- A computer expert who can set up the logging system for FD.
- Tables and chairs, rigs, coax cable, heavy extension cords, fire extinguishers (very important!).
- A photographer to capture everything for posterity (or at least for the *Ø-Beat*!).
- Operators for the stations!!
- Anyone with contacts with the local media, emergency officials and politicians.

I do have leads on a lot of these items, but it never hurts to have a bigger list to choose from. If you can help out please let me know, preferably by e-mail, or by phone at 282-9134.

## Ham Radio Suffers Loss of Shuttle Crew



When the shuttle disintegrated on Feb 1 over Texas, seven shuttle Columbia astronauts died. The space shuttle has been a major source of education through the AMSAT/ARRL's Shuttle/Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) program, and more recently,

the ARISS, or Amateur Radio on the International Space Station. Three of the Columbia astronauts were Amateur Radio operators.

The astronauts aboard the STS-107 Columbia were Commander Rick Husband, included Pilot Willie McCool, Mission Specialists Kalpana "KC" Chawla,

KD5ESI; David Brown, KC5ZTC; Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU, Michael Anderson, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut.

This accident put a very brief damper on scheduled amateur radio contacts with the astronauts aboard the ISS, but contacts have been restarted and some have taken place since the accident.

## If It s Metal, It ll Radiate!

By WV7T Mike Anderson

Due to the great economic prosperity I am enjoying situations required that I had to sell my HF beam. I needed a multiband antenna to get back on the air. For quite a while the idea of a 33 foot vertical left me curious. Thanks to Dick WBØDUL, who supplied the final 102 inches, I was able to piece together the 32.5 foot antenna which dwarfs the height of the house by comparison. Spinning the knobs on my ole MFJ antenna analyzer I started tweaking the MFJ 969 tuner. To my surprise I was able to match the antenna from 1.8 MHz to 50 MHz. Neat! I printed a tuner preset chart and placed it at the tuner.

Okay. So it looks like 1:1 to the radio. How will it perform? Well, I was a lucky fellow; the ARRL International DX CW Contest just happened to be on that very weekend. Operating as AFØS, the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association club call, I found 2W was too low a power so I went QRO all the way up to 20W and the contacts started coming. I missed part of the contest (forgot the contest was on) making only 81 QSOs. Here is the breakdown. XE, PJ, TG, KP4, 9Y, P4, FM, OA, PY, V3, PY0F, G, 6Y, V2, F, HG, LY, KP2, SM, UA0, KH6, TI, CT, DL, LU, EA8, ZF, VP5, JA, AND KL7. Not too bad for a simple antenna.

## Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)

Every once in a while you can hear local hams discussing activities on MARS, or hear hams asking how to join MARS. What is MARS? MARS is an auxiliary radio system used by the military for two purposes. It's a backup communications system that can be used in times of emergency, and it's also a system to handle morale and welfare traffic from deployed troops. MARS was used extensively during the Vietnam War to pass messages from troops to their families. Phone patches are commonly made over MARS frequencies. MARS uses primarily HF but there are also VHF simplex and repeater frequencies used. Frequencies are outside of the ham bands, but close enough so ham equipment can be used. Each service has its own MARS program, but MARS overall is a joint (multiservice) program. There is only one MARS license "class", and anyone from novice to extra can participate, even on HF. Since I didn't get anyone's permission to use their name/call as a point of contact, if you're interested in MARS, next time you hear someone talking about it, jump in and ask for more info, or contact the PPRAA and we'll help you get info.

## Pikes Peak Region Ham Radio Event Calendar

March / April 2003 -- Please see Page 2 for Points of Contact

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Hamfest Planning Mtg
2 PPFMA Annual Mtg	3	4	5	6	7	8 MARC VE Testing HamCon Mtg
9 PPFMA Mtg Snow Date	10	11	12 PPRAA Mtg	13	14 No Lunch Bunch	15
16	17 PPRAA Board Mtg	18	19 MARC Mtg	20 EPCRACES Mtg	21	22
23	24 ZB Deadline	25	26	27	28	29 Skywarn Training
30	31	1	2	3	4	5 Longmont ARC Hamfest
6	7	8	9 PPRAA Mtg	10	11	12 PPRAA VE Test PPARES Trng
13	14 PPRAA Board Mtg	15	16 MARC Mtg	17 EPCRACES Mtg Skywarn Training	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 ZB Deadline	29	30			

**Questions about any event on this calendar? Something missing? Try our web page, or contact a Board Member!**

## PPRAA Membership Application

<b>Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.</b> P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521	
Date: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E Phone: _____ Mbr of ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No E-mail: _____ Additional Family Members to Join/Renew: Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____ Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____ Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____	In which activities would you like to participate? Field Day <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrations <input type="checkbox"/> Nets or round tables <input type="checkbox"/> Organize activities <input type="checkbox"/> Teach ham classes <input type="checkbox"/> Full Member \$15: <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$18: <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 \$10: <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 Family \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> Associate \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> Ø-Beat Only \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> Donation to Club: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: _____
<b>MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PPRAA"</b>	
<b>Please indicate how you'd like your Ø-Beat delivered:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Standard hardcopy via U.S. Mail (Defaults to standard hard copy in the event that NO check boxes are checked) <input type="checkbox"/> As a PDF file attachment via e-mail, to help save a few bucks <input type="checkbox"/> I'll save the club a few bucks and download it from the Web!	
Circle your interests ⇒ HF / V/UHF / FM / SSB / Digital / DX / Contests / Technical / Hardware / Other _____	
New and renewing members must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer. <b>Please Type or Print Clearly!</b>	

**ALL NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND RENEWALS WILL BE PRORATED TO EXPIRE IN DECEMBER!!**



## RadioActivities!



### Lunch Bunch

The **Lunch Bunch** is being postponed for a few months due to, well, just ... things. Schedules have changed, people can't make it, etc. So we'll

hold off for a few months. Stay tuned! Contact Moe WBØRTF with any questions!!

### Dits and Bits

➤ **For Sale:** From an estate: Kenwood TS-820, SM-200 monitor, AT-200 antenna tuner, w/manuals, very good condition, \$550. Harvey LeCato W1JU, 592-4607 (H) or 599-7070 (W), [harvey01@adelphia.net](mailto:harvey01@adelphia.net).

### *The Radio Shoppe*

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### **Jess Miley**

**KØTAA**

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**Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521 USA**

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